Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing, in a control unit, tables of addresses of receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions;

receiving, in a routing unit, data packets from a sender;

buffering, in the routing unit, out of the data packets received from the sender multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of a the multicast group;

communicating the multicast address from the routing unit to the control unit;

in the control unit, determining, by searching the tables based on the multicast address to determine addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers, and supplying the addresses and the specific parameters to the routing unit;

filtering, in the routing unit, the multicast data packets in accordance with the specific parameters for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered multicast data packets; and

transmitting, by the routing unit, supplying the filtered multicast data packets to the addresses of the receivers.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the specific parameters indicate a of a certain content in data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the certain content is filtered out during the filtering.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
storing, in a control unit, tables of addresses of receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions;
receiving, in a routing unit, data packets from a sender;
buffering, in the routing unit, out of the data packets received from the sender multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of a the multicast group;
communicating the multicast address from the routing unit to the control unit;
in the control unit, determining, by searching the tables based on the multicast address to determine addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers, and supplying the addresses and the specific parameters to the routing unit;
filtering, in the routing unit, the addresses in accordance with the specific parameters to obtain filtered receiver addresses; and
transmitting, by the routing unit, supplying the multicast data packets to the filtered receiver addresses.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the buffering further

includes:

          detecting contents and a data amount of data packets, and wherein the

    filtering further includes:

          filtering the determined addresses in accordance with detected results.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the specific parameters

indicate a certain time at which no data packets are to be received by a specific receiver.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein when the certain time is

detected in the searching step the address of the specific receiver is filtered out during the

filtering.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the specific parameters

indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the specific parameters

indicate a certain data amount of data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein when the certain content

is detected in the detecting step the address of the specific receiver is filtered out during the

filtering.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein when the certain data

amount is detected in the detecting step the address of the specific receiver is filtered out during

the filtering.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

          a control unit configured to store in advance tables of addresses of

    receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and

specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions; and

a routing unit configured to receive data packets from a sender and buffer multicast data packets out of the data packets received from the sender, the multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of the multicast group, and communicate the multicast address to the control unit;

wherein the control unit is configured to ~~communicate with the routing unit to~~ determine ~~the~~ addresses of ~~the~~ receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers by searching the ~~stored~~ tables based on the multicast address, ~~designate filters for each receiver of the multicast group in accordance with the specific parameters~~ and to supply the addresses and filters to the routing unit; and

wherein the routing unit is configured to filter the multicast data packets in accordance with the specific parameters ~~with the filters~~ for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered multicast data packets and to transmit ~~supply~~ the filtered multicast data packets to the addresses of the receivers ~~of the multicast group~~.

16.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver.

17.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the specific parameters indicate a data amount of a certain content in data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver.

18.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the certain content is filtered out by the routing unit.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control unit

determines the receiver addresses and the specific parameters via tables stored in the control unit.

21.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a control unit configured to store in advance tables of addresses of

receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and

specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise

parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions; and

a routing unit configured to receive data packets from a sender and buffer

multicast data packets out of the data packets received from the sender, the

multicast data packets having a destination address of which is a multicast address

of the multicast group, and communicate the multicast address to the control unit;

wherein the a control unit is configured to ~~communicate with the routing~~

~~unit to~~ determine addresses of the receivers of the multicast group indicated by

the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers by searching the

~~stored~~ tables based on the multicast address, ~~designate filters for each receiver~~

~~address of the multicast group in accordance with the specific parameters~~ and

supply the addresses and the specific parameters ~~designated filters~~ to the routing

unit; and

wherein the routing unit is configured to filter the addresses of the

receivers of the multicast group in accordance with the specific parameters ~~with~~

~~the filters~~ for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered receiver

addresses, and transmit ~~supply~~ the multicast data packets to the filtered receiver

addresses.

22.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the routing unit detects

contents and a data amount of data packets and communicates the results to the control unit

which designates the filters also in accordance with these results.

23.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain time at which no data packets are to be received by the a specific receiver.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein when the certain time is detected by the control unit the address of the specific receiver is filtered out by the routing unit.

25.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver.

26.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain data amount of data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver.

27.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein when the content is detected by the routing unit the address of the specific receiver is filtered out by the routing unit.

28.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein when the data amount is detected by the routing unit the address of the specific receiver is filtered out by the routing unit.

29.   (Canceled)

30.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control unit determines the receiver addresses and specific parameters via tables stored in the control unit.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the certain content is filtered out during the filtering.

32-34. (Canceled)

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the certain content is filtered out by the routing unit.

36-38. (Canceled)